THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of External Affairs has informed that 13 Indian nationals in Sri Lanka and 1 in Maldives have lost their lives during the Tsunami on 26th December, 2004. Seven deceased persons belong to Tamil Nadu, four to Maharashtra, one to Andhra Pradesh, one to Gujarat and one to West Bengal.

The deceased Indian nationals have not received any compensation package from the Governments of Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Encroachment of Kirti Nagar Furniture Market, Delhi

2991. SHRI KB. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire took place recently in Kirti Nagar, Delhi killing, seven firemen;

(b) whether encroachments have been blamed as major hurdle in controlling the fire;

(c) whether it is a fact that encroachments from the roads in Kirti Nagar Furniture Market were removed many times but the same again took place because of the police not taking effective action to check encroachments; and

(d) what action does Government propose to take against Delhi Police for not shopping encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Encroachments did not cause any hurdle in controlling this fire. However, there were difficulties in controlling the fire as a portion of the structure collapsed and the remaining portions were dangerously poised which inhibited fire fighting from close proximity.

(c) and (d) The responsibility of removing illegal encroachments is that of the civic authorities. Delhi Police provides assistance as and when required for removal of encroachments. The local police of Kirti Nagar area

has been providing all possible assistance to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to remove encroachments to ensure free flow of traffic, especially the fire fighting tenders. Since no lapse on the part of Delhi Police has come to notice, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to take any action against it.

Permission to investigators of UK charities commission

2992. SHRI R.K.ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would permit the investigators of the UK Charities Commission, which has filed a formal investigation into allegations made by Britain's Channel 4 about the channeling of funds from British Charities Seva International and Hindu Swayamsevak Sabha (HSS) into sectarian violence in India;

(b) if so, whether the findings of the investigation shall determine the course of action in proscribing such funding from being received and misutilized; and

(c) what are Government's strategies to monitor implementation of this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) This Ministry has not received any such request so far.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Separate development board for Konkan region

2993. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of backwardness of the Konkan region, Government of Maharashtra has been persistently pressing of constitution of a separate development board for the Konkan region;